

REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, claims 2-21 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 7 are allowable at least for reciting: “selecting level estimates to minimize a sum of squared errors, wherein said errors are based on differences between said signal vectors and a product of said tap values, values of said sign pattern and said level estimates”.

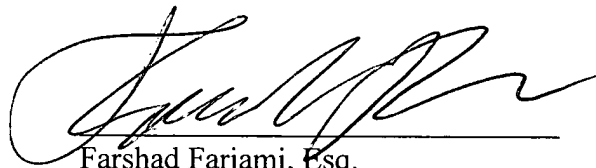
Claims 2 and 7 recite an error function, i.e. said errors are based on differences between said signal vectors and a product of said tap values, values of said sign pattern and said level estimates, which can be minimized using known techniques. However, such error function is not disclosed, taught or remotely suggested by the cited references. Many different error functions may be provided to obtain level estimates; however, inventors of the present application have discovered that the above-recited error function leads to superior level estimates. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 7, and their dependent claims 3-6 and 8-11, should be allowed.

Moreover, claims 12 and 17 in part recite: “selecting level estimates to minimize a sum of squared errors, wherein said errors are based on differences between said signal vectors and a product of said tap values, values of said sign pattern, said level estimates and error values, wherein said error values are based on differences between said signal vectors and a product of said tap values, values of said sign pattern and previous or current said level estimates”. Applicants respectfully submit that the above-recited error function of claims 12 and 17, which is used in conjunction with the LMS algorithm, is not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited references, as explained above in conjunction with patentability of claims 2 and 7. Accordingly,

applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 and 17, and their dependent claims 13-16 and 18-21, should be allowed.

An early allowance of claims 2-21 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;
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